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By: Stacy Baker-Cole

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Date of signature and deposit/transmission: 3-22-04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: M. DeGraffenreid

) Group Art Unit:
)

Serial No.:

) Examiner:
)

Filed:

) Attorney Docket: 81087762
)

For: MULTI-SPEED AUTOMATIC
LAYSHAFT TRANSFER CASE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b), record is hereby made of information, which the Patent Office may wish to consider in connection with its examination of the above-identified application. Copies of such information, as well as a completed PTO-1449 form, are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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SUBSTITUTE FOR FORM 1449B/PTO						
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				COMPLETE IF KNOWN		
				Application Number		
				Filing Date		
				First Named Inventor		
				Art Unit		
				Examiner Name		
				Attorney Docket No.		
SHEET	1	OF	1	81087762		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number - Kind Code ² if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
		US-4,040,309	08/09/1977	Wood et al.		
		US-5,697,861	12/16/1997	Wilson		
		US-6,238,317	05/29/2001	Brown et al.		
		US-6,354,977	03/12/2002	Brown et al.		
		US-6,398,688	06/04/2002	Brown et al.		
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initial*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country-Number ³ -KindCode (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
Examiner Signature				Date Considered		

EXAMINER: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation design number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by et U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner of Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313